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February 6, 2001 12 FEB 12 P2:11

FDA Commissioner
Dockets Management Branch (HFA305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852.

Dear FDA Commissioner:

Your recent long-awaited revisions to your policy on genetically engineered (GE) foods are cosmetic with no requirements for pre-market safety testing or labeling. The only real difference is that now companies will have to notify the FDA 120 days before they plan to market a new GE food.


Your "voluntary labeling" guidelines which actually warn against use of certain terms such as "GMO-free" totally fails to protect the health of Americans. Please stand up to the biotech industry and establish a GE foods policy that requires: 1) Pre-market safety testing;

2) Mandatory labeling; and 3) Assumption of liability by biotech companies for any harms their foods may cause.

86% of Americans want GE foods to be labeled. American farmers have lost \$2 billion in exports (corn and soybeans) because foreign consumers increasingly question the safety of the American food supply. In this area of GE foods, the U.S. government agencies have done exactly what big agribusiness has asked them to do and told them to do. "Biotech foods are new, they are different, and they deserve special regulations. The industry should drop its opposition to tougher regulations.

Please let me know what tests are to be done to protect the public.

Sincerely,


Martha Bushnell, Ph.D.

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